



# AROUND THE HOUSE

## REVITALIZED LOOK FOR PUBLIC HOUSING

Wichita's Public Housing Division has a long history of revitalizing its housing inventory. Today, Public Housing is at the center of a revitalization program that will forever change the face of our public housing community. While undergoing a radical, physical transformation, the housing administration is experimenting with a new management approach that will effectively provide our clients better customer service, quicker response times for work-orders, and a social environment that will assist individual residents move toward independence.

Under the Capital Fund Program (CFP), the Public Housing Division (PHD) is re-facing its concentrated housing areas by giving them a new exterior look, including a change of the exterior façade for more curb appeal, new thermal-pane windows for better protection from the summer heat and winter cold, and the installation of much needed storage sheds. Additionally, older chain-link fencing is being replaced with new vinyl coated fencing.

Before, units in concentrated areas had humdrum, "we all look alike" features. We've taken 50-year-old

'humdrum' houses and updated the exterior appearance to blend with neighborhoods throughout the city!

Other examples of concentrated area improvements are fencing that provides a sense of security to residents while providing additional curb appeal. The Capital Fund has also fulfilled a long overdue need for storage by installing each unit with an 8' x 8' storage shed. This will allow tenants to properly store items such as lawn mowers, tools, bicycles etc., safely and securely.

By investing Capital Improvements Funding into these areas, our department discovered that the scenic views of these upgraded public housing units provided residents of public housing with a different attitude on life. Community revitalization is a new approach to fighting poverty. Community

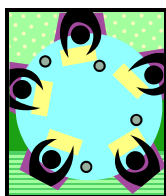


Our new exterior façades result in increased curb appeal as seen above.

building encourages residents to take on leadership roles and responsibilities for their actions rather than be passive recipients of housing services. Through community building and revitalization of concentrated public housing neighborhoods, residents are establishing new goals and are beginning to move toward revitalizing their goals in life.

If your unit has not received a new look – *be patient*. As funding becomes available, other units will be scheduled for a much needed face-lift. Public Housing will continue working to make your lives better. **Together we can make a difference!**

## FOCUS GROUPS HELD FOR RESIDENT FEEDBACK



The Wichita Housing Authority held focus group meetings with residents of our designated Senior/Disabled Housing Developments in April regarding the WHISCAT Program. The

meetings were organized in order to determine whether or not the WHISCAT program meets the needs of our residents and to encourage the residents to offer opinions on how the program can be improved.

WHISCAT stands for the Wichita Housing Initiative for Service Coordination and Transportation Program, funded by the Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) grant from HUD.

**Nancy Mehl**, the WHISCAT Site Coordinator, has implemented three main services of the WHISCAT Program which are transportation, housekeeping, and senior companions. Each of these services is offered for little or no fee from residents. Nancy has also coordinated regular trips designed to encourage socialization and interaction between residents. Destina-

tions include trips to grocery stores, discount stores, shopping malls, museums, restaurants, libraries, and parks. She has also organized holiday lights tours and ice cream socials.

Residents were notified of the focus group meetings via flyers mailed with their rental statements and posters hung on the community room bulletin boards and inside the elevators. As a result, we received feedback from almost 50 residents who gathered for an hour of cas-

(Continued on page 3)

## "JOYFUL PAINTING" ON DISPLAY



"Joyful Painting", an exhibit of 20 works by **Edith Mott**, can be seen now through July 25 at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita in the William J. Reals Gallery of Art, 1010 N. Kansas (East Gallery).

Edith, a resident of Greenway Manor and a self-taught artist, is a member of the Kansas Art Guild and the Wichita Oil Painting Society.

Call 293-3400 for more information.

## FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION SEMINAR



Every day the headlines spell out new and greater violence worldwide, and the shocking and needless tragedies across the globe. The YWCA Week Without Violence campaign emphasizes alternatives to family violence, gun violence, violence linked to racism, sexism and bigotry, and violence in the media. This year, the YWCA of Wichita and the City of Wichita Housing Services Department are partnering to present a Family Violence Prevention seminar as part of the local YWCA Week Without Violence activities. The seminar will be held on Saturday, October 25 to families participating in the Section 8 Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program. It is

anticipated that as many as 80 will attend the seminar.

One purpose of the FSS Violence Prevention seminar is to identify and help FSS clients who are experiencing family violence to gain a better understanding of the cycle of violence and how it destroys our families and our community. By partnering with the YWCA, families will be linked to the expertise of advocates who work at the YWCA Women's Crisis Center/Safehouse (WCC). Through this link, families will increase their awareness of the WCC outreach services that are available to help eliminate the barriers to living a violence-free life. Topics to be discussed at the seminar in-

clude; how to apply for a Protection from Abuse or Protection from Stalking order, the cycle of violence, and how to talk with children about family violence.

In addition to the October seminar, the YWCA has made a commitment to facilitate additional quarterly seminars for the FSS program. Specific topics for the quarterly seminars are currently under development. The YWCA is proud of this new partnership and sees it as a step in the agency's goal to build a coordinated community response to publicly say **"No more!"** to domestic violence in our community.



## FREE / GRATIS CANCER SCREENING FOR WOMEN

### If ...

You are 40 to 64 years of age; you have no insurance or your insurance is limited; and your family meets the following income guidelines call Emalyn at 660-7352 for more information.

### Si ...

Ud. tiene 40-64 años, no tiene aseguranza medica o es limitada, su familia cae entre estos ingresos.

Gratis Examen Fisico de los Pechos, Mamografia, Papanicolaoo. Para informacion llame Marcela 660-7355.

Family Size	Annual Income	Monthly Max
1	\$22,450	\$1,871
2	\$30,300	\$2,525
3	\$38,150	\$3,180
4	\$46,000	\$3,834
5	\$53,850	\$4,488
6	\$61,700	\$5,142
7	\$69,550	\$5,796
8	\$77,400	\$6,450

## NOTICE TO SECTION 8 LANDLORDS

### Revision of Request for Tenancy Approval (Form HUD-52517)

The Housing Choice Voucher Program regulations require the Housing Authority to certify that the rent charged to the housing choice voucher tenant is not more than the rent charged for other unassisted comparable units. The regulation states that the owner must give the Housing Authority information requested on rents charged by the owner for other units in the premises.

The Request for Tenancy

Approval (RFTA) was revised to add information from owners of multifamily properties on the rents charged for three (3) recent rentals of comparable unassisted units in the same complex. The owner must supply this information in **Section 12a** of the revised RFTA, effective immediately. The Housing Authority will use this information to determine the rent reasonableness for comparable unassisted units in the same apartment com-

plex.

The revised portion of the RFTA needs to be completed by the owner only if you have multifamily properties, such as an apartment complex, and the comparison is to be on units in the complex that are unassisted. **Owners do not need to complete this portion of the form for single-family dwellings.**

If you have questions, please contact the Section 8 Office at 268-4683.



*Another example of the new exterior façades on Public Housing units. Story on Page 1.*

## BUT DID YOU TELL US?



Did you recently change your phone number? You probably told your friends and family about it,

right? Well, did you remember to tell us? It's important that we are kept up-to-date on your contact information. Please contact our office to make sure we have current home,

job and emergency contact information. This way, if something happens or an emergency occurs, we will be able to contact you! Call 268-4688 with changes

## KIDDIE POOL RULES

If you are considering the use of a wading pool this summer, please keep the following suggestions in mind:

- \* Never leave a pool full of water unattended.
- \* Never leave a child unsupervised near a pool.
- \* Do not allow a child in the pool without an adult present.
- \* Be sure a telephone for emergencies is accessible nearby.

- \* If a child is missing, check the pool first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.
- \* Kiddie pools should be no deeper than 12 inches or wider than 6 feet in diameter.
- \* Pools should be emptied each night. Letting water sit for long periods of time can cause harmful germs to grow. Emptying out the water also lessens the chances of unattended



children entering the pool.

- \* Toys should not be left in or around pools — they can attract unattended young children.
- \* Wading pools should be moved frequently to avoid damage to the grounds.
- \* Pools should be properly stored when not in use.

From the **Housing Authority Insurance Group Risk News** August 2002 Newsletter



*Here's a sample of the new sheds and vinyl fencing installed by the Public Housing Department.*

## FOCUS GROUPS

(Continued from page 1)  
ual, relaxed, and informative discussions that offered many insights on the usefulness of the program

The response from the par-

ticipants was extremely supportive of the WHISCAT program. The quality and low-cost of the program's services were overwhelmingly cited as the reason for such favorable responses.

**We wish to thank all who participated in the focus groups and encourage every resident to join us in future focus groups.**

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## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT DATE SET

The "20<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out" (NNO), a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), has been scheduled for **Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003.**

Wichita residents are once again invited to join thousands of other communities across America in supporting a unique, coast-to coast crime prevention project on



August 5<sup>th</sup> to give neighborhood crime and drugs a "going away" party. From 6:00 p.m.

to 10:00 p.m., residents city-wide and across the nation, will be asked to turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside on their block. For more information contact **Officer Heather Frazier**, Community Affairs 455 N. Main, Wichita KS, 67202, or call 268-4101. You can also register on-line at [www.wichitapolice.com/Forms/NNO\\_registration\\_form.htm](http://www.wichitapolice.com/Forms/NNO_registration_form.htm).

*What does "NATIONAL NIGHT OUT" really do?*

- 1. Heightens crime prevention and drug prevention awareness;*
- 2. Generates support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;*
- 3. Strengthens neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and*
- 4. Sends a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.*